



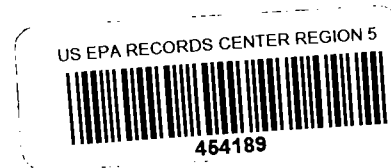
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International Specialists in the Environment

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 18, 1985
TO: File
FROM: Randall Ekstrom *RAE*
SUBJECT: Illinois/TDD# R05-8303-01E/WSTS# IL0230
Rockford/John Boyce Garage



This facility was a garage which was occupied by a plating company. Plating wastes containing cyanide and heavy metals were dumped into a floor drain inside the facility. This floor drain is believed to empty into a drywell, or seepage tank, on the property. This drywell would allegedly empty into the aquifer supplying the municipal water supply for the City of Rockford. The location of this drywell is unknown. This site was originally identified by the IEPA in the form of a PA submitted to U.S. EPA.

This site was inspected by FIT in July 1984. However, during the preparation of the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) score, FIT was informed that the connection of the floor drain to the drywell would need to be proven before an HRS score could be determined. FIT therefore returned to the site on October 17, 1985 to identify the location of the drywell.

A magnetometer survey originally was proposed, but this option was ruled out when piles of iron and steel pipe were discovered on the property in the proposed survey area. A metal detector was then used to survey the floor around the floor drain in order to identify the direction the drain line took from the floor drain.

After this initial survey, an attempt was made to run a steel plumber's snake down the drain line, connect the snake to a battery,

and re-survey the floor. This was done to create an electromagnetic field in the drain line and hopefully result in a stronger response on the metal detector. However, attempts to run the snake down the drain line were unsuccessful, so the snake was inserted into the drain as far as possible and the power source was connected. Water was present in the drain, so it was hoped that an electromagnetic field would still be created.

The initial metal detector survey showed that a stronger response was found in the area north of the floor drain, but it was not possible to identify a distinct location of positive response. However, after the plumber's snake with the power source was used, stronger metal detector readings were found in a line running to the northwest from the floor drain. This line of stronger responses led up to the wall of the foundation for an apparently newer portion of the building.

It appears from this investigation that the drain line runs from this floor drain in a northwest direction to a point beyond the foundation wall for the newer part of the building. At this time, the existence of a drywell cannot be proven or disproven. It is possible that this drywell is located under the foundation for the newer (west) part of the building. Perhaps a long plumber's snake or drain auger could be used to determine the total length of the drain line. However, it should be noted that this may not determine the direction the drain line takes beyond the foundation wall, and it also may still not prove the existence of a drywell at the end of the drain line.

54T:5M

Immediate Removal Action Check Sheet

Fire and Explosion Hazard High Moderate Low

Flammable Materials _____

Explosives _____

Incompatible Chemicals _____

Direct Contact with Acutely Toxic Chemicals

Site Security _____

Leaking Drums or Tanks _____

Open lagoons or pits _____

Materials on Surface _____

Proximity of Population _____

Evidence of Casual Site Use _____

Contaminated Water Supply

Exceeds 10 Day Snarl _____

Gross Taste or Odors _____

Alternate Water Available _____

Potential Contamination X X

Is the site abandoned or active?

Site is inside active garage
owned by Rockford Cylinder Gas.